

A CENTRAL PARK MYSTERY

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1025-1030.

Waiting Five Hours on a Park Bench to Die!
After Shooting Herself with a Small Re-
volver—Refusing to Talk About Herself.
 After nightfall the West Drive, opposite

Ninety-second street, is one of the loneliest parts of Central Park. The lamps on Eighth avenue do not throw their rays as far as the deserted roadway, and on a night when the moon is not shining the path on either side of the elm and maple trees is a gloom made by tall, shadowy trees. Seated near the outer walk, at twenty minutes past midnight, yesterday morning, Park Policeman Armstrong espied a young woman. He thought she might be a stranger from a picnic band, who, having become tired after the excitement of the evening, was resting herself. Approaching her, he saw that her dress was not properly arranged. Her face told plainly that she was in distress. Armstrong asked her what her trouble was.

"My shoe," she said.

"What?"

"There." The girl pointed to her left breast, under the blouse. The policeman felt a match

to see if she was telling the truth. The flame showed him blood on her undergarments.

"Who shot you?" Armstrong asked.

"Myself," she said. "I was tired of living. I have prayed to die since I was six years old. It was a mistake I was ever born."

A love affair.

"No. Leave me."

Armstrong ran to the apartment to have an ambulance called from the Presbyterian Hospital, and hurried back.

On his return he found in the grass beside the car a .38 Smith & Wesson brand new revolver. Its seven chambers were full, but one cartridge had been fired. Near the pistol was a note which said: "I have contained the pistol when it was purchased."

When the ambulance drove up in the Park to take her away, she was sitting like a dead woman in it, and she said she did not believe she would wake to the hospital.

"I've sat here five hours, with this wound in my back, and I thought I was more tired than I have ever been."

As she was lifted into the ambulance she said: "I am going to die. I am going to die."

He told her he believed she would live, and she

The young woman has the features of a German Jewess. Her skin is dark and her hair is black and frizzly, and cut short. She is of medium size, her hands are small, and she appears as if she might have education and refinement. She wears a ring of diamonds on her finger. Two or three of them contain diamond settings. Her watch is a gold hunting case of pretty design. Her clothing was looked over

carefully. It consisted in part of a brown dress with red trimming, and a hat that matched the suit. The goods were of medium quality. In the skirt pocket was a purse containing what had been five-dollar bills, two dime pieces and some pennies. The clothing was unmarked, and contained not a scrap of paper that revealed the wearer's identity. The young woman was closely questioned by Superintendent Went Vanli, but she tried to evade him. Finally he was able to learn from her that her name was Mary Burg and that her age was 25 years. She told him that she had been a dressmaker, and had been in the country

three and a half years. She lived in New York three years and then went to Chicago. A short time ago she visited New York, but soon returned to Chicago. On Saturday she arrived again in New York. She refused to tell where she lived in Chicago, or whether she had any friends in this city.

A Poker Game in Thirtieth Street Broken Up, and 17 Negroes Captured.

The neighbors complained repeatedly about the riotous behavior on the second floor of 106 West

Thirtieth street, and a few weeks ago Detective Price found that the door was hired by Winfield Briggdon and John W. Walker, two negroes, who used it as a covey room where negroes of all sorts could play poker, get drunk, and amuse themselves generally. The police raided the place, but when they had broken in the door they found nobody there. A plank from a rear window was found at the door, and the police suspected that it was a means of escape. The place was raided again Saturday night. In the evening Detective Price removed the plank. About midnight, eight, in company with two police men, he broke through. He found a door open, and the water was in the room. Sixteen negroes, besides the two proprietors, were in the place. At the first alarm the

Dying from Her Husband's Blows.

Father Wood notified the police of the Fourth street station, Williamsburgh, at midnight last night that Mrs. Silkey of 314 Union avenue was dying from injuries inflicted by her husband, Owen. Silkey had

been drinking for some days, and had beaten his wife on Saturday. Their four-year-old boy described to the police when they visited the suite, the way his father kicked and beat his mother. Silvey was seated in the room smoking a pipe and listening indifferently to the boy's story. The woman was unconscious.

Crowds on the Cable Road.

Cars on the cable road in 125th street and Tenth avenue ran regularly yesterday, and carried crowds of passengers. At 5 P. M. an accident to one of the grips delayed travel, but the success of the road was assured. When everything got to working smoothly again, the cars were crowded with passengers.

Five Men Cling to a Capized Yacht.

Pilot Thomas of the Rockaway steamboat Columbia sighted a capized yacht in the upper bay, opposite Stapleton, yesterday afternoon, a mile from shore, with five men clinging to it. One of the men was seen to lose his hold and recover it again. The pilot called to the ship to stop, but before the steamboat could reach the upset yacht a sloop yacht had alongside her and took the five men on board.

Robbins Arrested.

Jeremiah Robbins of Breslau, Long Island, who attempted to assault the 10-year-old daughter of John Grupe in the woods at Breslau, Long Island, Wednesday, was arrested at Woodbury on Saturday at taken to Haverhill. He was arraigned before Justice Lewis, and was committed to the county jail to await the action of the grand jury. Robbins is 23 years of age and was recently married.

Safe Burglars Try to Fire a Building.

Burglars began once the winter season of

burglars blew open the outer door of a safe in the produce store of William F. Shotwell, at the New Wallabout Market, Brooklyn, early yesterday morning, failed to force the inner door. A watchman in the building discovered the attempt and the burglars fled, alarmed, by finding that they had set fire to some cases of cigars. The cigars, which were valued at \$100, were packed in such a way that they were stored in the vicinity of the safe.

His Death Following that of His Wife.

Dr. James Quackenboss died at his home at 238 West Tenth street on Saturday night of apoplexy. His age was 75. He studied under Dr. Valentine Mott, the elder. He will be buried today in Green

He Wanted a Drink or Blood.

Dennis B. Haggerty of 234 York street, Brooklyn, tried to get a drink in John McMiran's saloon, 108 Hudson avenue, yesterday, and because he did not succeed broke the windows and attacked the liquor dealer's son with a hatchet and cut his head. Haggerty was arrested.

Injured by a Wind Gust.

Mrs. Margaret Holland, aged 80 years, while walking in the street at West Hampton, L. I., on Saturday evening, was knocked down by a gust of wind and seriously hurt. Her shoulder, wrist, and one rib were broken.

The Weather Yesterday.
Indicated by Hudson's thermometer: 3 A. M., 54°; 6 A. M., 52°; 9 A. M., 58°; 12 M., 67°; 3 P. M., 69°; 6 P. M., 66°; 9 P. M., 65°; 12 midnight, 66°. Average yesterday, 61½°; average on Sept. 6, 1894, 65°.

Signal Office Prediction.
Continued cool and generally fair weather.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

Thirty-four persons were arrested last evening for violations of the Excise law.

Miss Sadie Mortimer has recovered from her recent disposition, and will appear as usual in "Naum" at the Casino to night.

The Country Club of Westchester county will hold open house for members in their grounds at Barlow's sound on Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1.

Twelve-year old Walter Hart of 106 West Sixty seven street was drowned while bathing in the North River.

John B. Saffery, who was arrested on Saturday morning on an accusation that possibly he had caused wife's death, was discharged in the Harbison Police Court yesterday, the Coroner having reported that she died alcoholism.

J. F. Schierloh, of 14 Avenue C, sells Colgate & Co. Laundry Sops. The standard article.—26c.